

# AFTER THE TORNADO

Storm-Stricken Cities Now Face the Future.

BRAVE AND HOPEFUL.

Thousands Are Busy Clearing Away Wreckage.

Story of Violence, Terror, Ruin, Desolation and Death—Burying the Dead and Caring for the Injured, Hungry and Homeless—Close Estimate of the Property Damage—Thousands Go to View the Storm's Work—Pen Picture of the Horrors the People of St. Louis Have Endured.

Bruised and torn and bleeding, staggering from the force of the blow, but still reliant and confident in her own strength, the city of St. Louis is standing in the view of hundreds of thousands of visitors, a beautiful picture even in her misery and pain. Though 200 of her children were torn from her by the merciless wind, and scores are lying in the hospitals on beds of agony, she is rallying her superb resources ready to begin again the march of



EAST ST. LOUIS CITY HALL.

progress. Property worth millions was snatched from her bosom, and from the fair surface of her vicinage huge factories, beautiful dwellings, gigantic elevators and thousands of homes of the poor have been razed. Dazed and half bleeding, she has struggled to her feet, groping in the darkness of affliction.

Her little neighbor is scarcely able to move. The full force of the storm that laid her waste was not lost in the long and remarkable voyage across the river. Out of a population of nearly three-quarters of a million St. Louis lost two hundred souls. East St. Louis has scarcely a family in her limits that does not number in its membership one dead or wounded. The list of victims to the fury of the wind runs up to 150, and to say who is injured would be to enumerate one-half the population of the bustling little community. Weaker than St. Louis, in that she lacks the size and wealth, she is strong in her own right. With the assistance of the outside world she will recover from the blow in time and her blocked streets will again be the thoroughfares full of teams and men they were before the terrible visitation. But in the history of the world, the disaster that overtook the sister cities will live on and on as the greatest of modern times.

### Birth of the Tornado.

On that fateful Wednesday afternoon the clouds formed in conclave over St. Louis. For months, weeks they had been hovering in an atmosphere that made



SCENE IN HICKORY STREET.

them worried and restless. They were surcharged with energy generated by excessive heat and they were surly. They thirsted for rapine and slaughter. Down below them myriads of mortals ran about the streets of the big city like ants, each carrying out his part in the daily journey of the world. Across the river dense volumes of smoke arose and from the many railroad yards the shriek of locomotive whistles mingled with the rattle of moving cars. The great stock yards and the rolling mills and the foundries were adding their quota to the atmosphere that

was irritating the vapory masses in the sky.

Traitorously the storm crept upon the city, and even as the people wondered why the shadows of vapor were behaving in a manner so unusual they framed their battle front and brought to being the tornado, the child of unusual atmospheric conditions, the concentration of the power of the elements. In less than ten minutes it caused damage to property that cannot be replaced in years and loss of life horrible to dwell upon. It swept a city from end to end, attacked a swollen river, lined with shipping, made of it a waste of muddly water, showing here and there on its surface a wreck, and rushed on through the little city across the bridge, demolishing it most utterly. It left behind a long trail of blood and twisted ruin.

When the force of the wind abated from every door and every place of shelter men and women swarmed with blanched faces and trembling lips. Every thoroughfare was a vista of broken signs, overturned vehicles, ground and shattered glass and twisted wires. Lights were snuffed out by the fury of the gale and the wonderful current that propels so many of the cars of the city was rendered useless. In the downtown business districts, where the damage was slight, the streets were crowded with citizens anxious to get to their homes to reassure loved ones. All felt that a dreadful calamity had occurred, but none could say the extent of it.

Night came on a city thoroughly and pitifully demoralized. In all its vast extent there was not a man who knew what had been accomplished by the terrible wind.

### Ghastly Tales Told.

About 7 o'clock the eastern horizon took on a ruddy appearance, and through the blinding rain long tongues of fire could be seen mounting high in the air. East St. Louis was on fire. There were fires to the south and to the east and to the west. The city was walled in with flames on three sides and the streets were impassable.

Out of the confusion and chaotic spawn of rumors, it became soon apparent that the bulk of the damage had been done in South and East St. Louis. No one knew the extent of it and all feared to guess. That it was unprecedented was intuitive surmised. Up in the city, where the full force of the charge of the angry clouds was not felt, the rain gave a faint indication of what it was where the tornado had mowed a path through the solid evidences of the industry of man. A steady stream of travel took its way toward the south and all night long it ebbed



SCENES AT THE MORGUE.

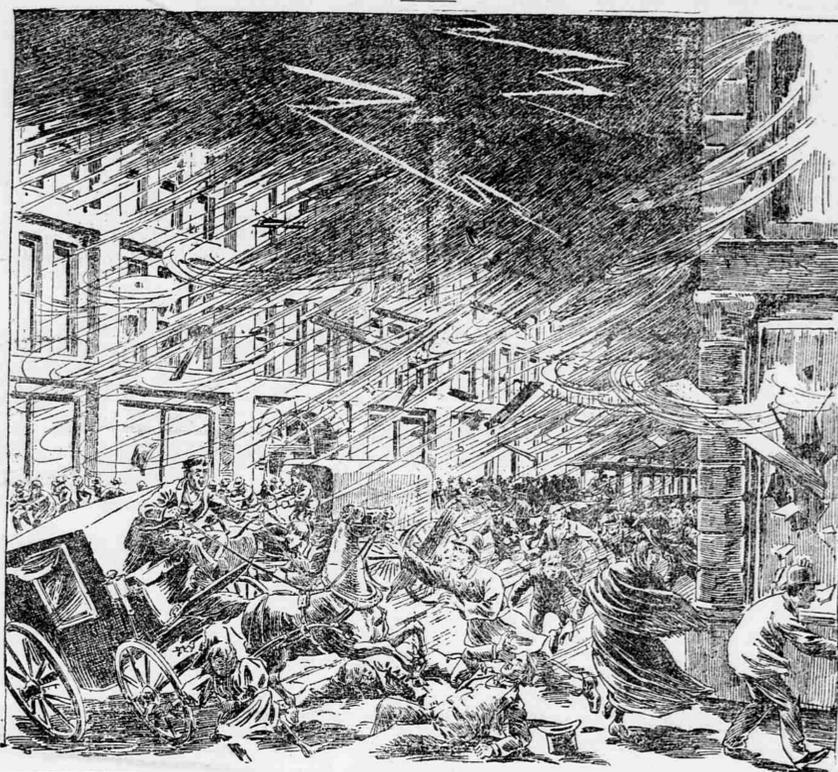
and flowed out of scenes of misery and devastation into scenes of devastation and misery. The rain did service in putting out numerous fires the firemen could not reach and then died slowly and sullenly, as though angry at being called upon to render any succor to the victims of its allied friends, the wind and the clouds.

### To the Rescue.

Brave men, with heads cool and hearts true, realized, as soon as the full fury of the visitation was spent, that there was work for them to do. The City Dispensary naturally became the central point of news and succor. Every minute news of fresh horrors was received. Ambulances began to reach the city hall loaded down with wounded and dead before any measures looking to their care could be taken. Physicians, full of energy, willing to do their part, came from every district in the city that had not been touched by the storm. Volunteers poured in from every direction, ready to dig and delve or do anything to assist the authorities.

The bulk of the horror of the night was grouped at the morgue, at the City Dispensary and at the hospital on Seventeenth and Pine streets. Down the narrow alley back of the city hall ambulance after ambulance swung in, loaded down with suffering humanity. The limited quarters were a repository for the misery of days crowded into hours. Nearly all the victims brought in were completely naked, stripped by the violence of the storm. Speed was necessary in treating them and the gentle, kindly words of the surgeon who has plenty of time were not spoken. It was hurry, hurry, hurry. A man with one fractured leg would give way on an operating table to a man with both legs fractured, or a woman with her tender flesh hanging in shreds. Little children, torn and crushed, were brought in and laid before the surgeons, their shrill cries and pitiful moans contrasting

## THE ST. LOUIS TORNADO IN THE HEART OF THE CITY.



with the howls of the more powerful adults. They came in a swift stream that seemed to be without end, all night long, and it appeared to those who handled them that the sights and sounds grew more terrible as the hours crept by.

### Among the Mangled.

The scenes at the hospital were a repetition of those at the dispensary. It was at the morgue that the full force of the disaster was brought to the understanding. The little slate-colored building on

sizing the ruin that was rather felt than seen in the gloom of the night.

### After the Storm.

The first reports of the great storm were considerably exaggerated, as is usually the case when such a calamity occurs. It was impossible in the confusion and darkness to obtain definite information, and the stories of havoc and fatality were magnified by the exciting influences of the situation. The number of killed, which was hastily estimated at 1,000, is now known to be less than 500 for St. Louis and East St. Louis, while the destruction of property may be put at not to exceed \$5,000,000. It is impossible to tell how many were wounded, but the list is likely to be several times as large as that of the dead; and there are hundreds of houseless and destitute families, thankful in their distress that they escaped with their lives. The work of securing the needy is being carried on with all possible diligence and effectiveness. There was a quick response of public sympathy and charity to the demands of the occasion, and well organized efforts of relief give assurance that no suffering will be neglected and no means spared to restore general comfort and happiness. It will take some time to repair the property damages, but the undertaking is already in progress and will be pushed forward with characteristic American pluck and enterprise until the last vestige of the misfortune is removed.

It will take at least two years to repair the damage done by the tornado. It is estimated that in St. Louis at least 7,500 houses were destroyed, although the officials of the building commissioners' office are inclined to place it at 10,000. The number of buildings destroyed or dam-



VIEW ON SIXTH STREET, ST. LOUIS—TYPICAL SCENE IN THE SOUTHWESTERN PART OF THE CITY.

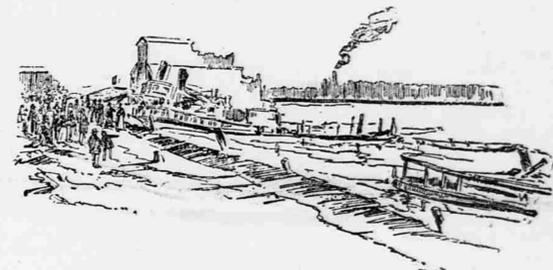
aged at East St. Louis will not fall below 500, which means a loss from which the Illinois town will not recover in many years. The tornado was not a respecter of classes, and made no distinctions. It swept away the palaces of wealth as well as the hovels of the poor. It spared neither institutions of mercy nor the monuments of productive industry. While the money value of the damage is estimated

in aggregate at not over \$5,000,000, these figures do not convey an adequate idea of the tremendous losses sustained by the great catastrophe. The losses entailed by suspended business operations and the money that will be required to clear away the wrecked factories, blocks and dwellings will swell the total loss to an incredible figure.

### ESTIMATE OF PROPERTY LOSS.

St. Louis Paper Believes \$10,000,000 Will Cover Everything.

A St. Louis paper prints a statement which very materially modifies all previ-



WRECKED STEAMERS ON THE EAST SHORE OF THE RIVER.

ous estimates of the aggregate loss by the hurricane. The article says:

Conservative and well-informed business men regard \$5,000,000 as being about the proper amount. In arriving at this conclusion all the heaviest losers have been considered, and the figures have been obtained from persons in possession, in almost every place, of personal knowledge. The following is a table of losses:

St. Louis United Elevator Co.	\$ 300,000
St. Louis Refrigerator and Woolen	125,000
Gutter Company	50,000
Eads bridge	50,000
Public schools	90,000
Churches	290,000
Liggett & Myers' new factory	250,000
Street railroads	275,000
River interests	300,000
Telephone lines	20,000
Telephone and electric light companies	150,000
City institutions	110,000
Fire alarm telegraph	20,000
Railroad interests	500,000
Pullis Bros' iron works	20,000
Groat Bagging Company	10,000
N. K. Fairbank & Co.'s factory	8,000
Inland Oil Company	44,000
St. Louis Iron and Manufacturing Company	75,000
Paper Cotton Compress Company	20,000
Schools and convents	75,000
E. Goldard Flour Mill Company	8,000
Bannattine Galvanized Iron Co.	175,000
Louis Orlean Furniture Co.	65,000
Tenements	20,000
St. Vincent's asylum	15,000
Purina Mills	8,000
Shickie, Harrison, Howard & Co.	8,000
Stromberg, Kraus & Co.'s factory	20,000
William Otto	8,000
Liederkrantz Hall	8,000
Eden Publishing House	6,000
Sawyer Manufacturing Co.	40,000
Brown Tobacco Co.	50,000
Seikrik's storage house	26,000
Aetna Iron Works	10,000
Consolidated Steel and Wire Co.	10,000
Excelsior Laundry	8,000

Bridge and Beach Manufacturing Company	50,000
Plant Mining Company	15,000
Mueller Bros. Furniture Co.	40,000
M. M. Buck & Co. warehouses	30,000
Wainwright Brewery	25,000
Anheuser-Busch Brewing Co.	10,000
National Wall Paper Company	40,000
William Koentz & Co.	25,000
Cupples Woodenware Co. warehouse	12,000
C. J. Costuba, furniture	25,000
Standard Heel Company	10,000
Epstein & Burenstein	20,000
B. F. Seibel	20,000
Cox & Gordon	8,000
Becher Sugar Refinery	6,000
Hydraulic Press Brick Company	10,000
W. J. Leup, brewery	60,000
Total	\$3,790,000

### KILLED BY THE WIND.

Nearly One Thousand Lives Have Been Lost in the Last Sixty Days.

Nearly 1,000 persons have been killed by tornadoes and windstorms of lesser violence during the last sixty days. The figures at hand show the number of dead to be 795, a total that will undoubtedly be swelled to much larger proportions when the full loss of life at St. Louis is ascertained.

Illinois	Dead	Injured
Peru, May 16	1	1
Mercer County, May 16	1	1
Elgin, May 16	1	4
Rockford, May 16	3	14
Monroe, May 24	2	6
Leaf River, May 24	1	14
Cairo, May 25	14	14
East St. Louis, May 27	150	300
New Baden, May 27	13	24
Birkners, May 27	4	8
Boyd, May 27	2	8
Irvington, May 27	1	5
Hopkinton, May 27	1	1
Mascoutah, May 27	1	1
Jefferson City, May 27	5	1
Fairfield, May 27	1	8
Total	208	364

### Missouri

St. Louis, May 27	250	300
Audra County, May 27	15	25
Total	265	325

### Michigan

Oakland County, May 25	113	33
Mount Clemens, May 25	1	12
Total	113	45

### Iowa

North McGregor, May 24	15	15
Valeria, May 24	5	2
Bondurant, May 24	4	2
Mingo, May 24	4	1
Santiago, May 24	3	1
Durango, May 24	5	1
New Hampton, May 24	1	1
Centerville, May 27	3	8
Total	40	12

### Kansas

Concordia, April 26	8	12
Falls City, May 16	4	12
Sabetha, May 16	13	13
Onida, May 16	6	1
Reserve, May 16	4	1
Emporia, May 20	1	1
Total	36	24

### Indiana

Warsaw, May 27	2	8
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## EAST ST. LOUIS, AS SEEN FROM THE FERRY, SHOWING RUINS OF THE WAREHOUSE AND FREIGHT DEPOT DISTRICT.

